

**INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT
CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE**

DATE: October 25, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:12 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:25 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
Ron Gibson
Dane Mahern
Lynn McWhirter
Marilyn Pfisterer
Lincoln Plowman
Joanne Sanders
William Oliver

ABSENT MEMBERS

AGENDA

UPDATE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION PROCESS – Penny Davis,
Executive Director, Law Enforcement Transition Advisory Committee

INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

The Indianapolis-Marion County Law Enforcement Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, October 25, 2006. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Gibson, Dane Mahern, Lynn McWhirter, Marilyn Pfisterer, Lincoln Plowman, Joanne Sanders and William Oliver.

UPDATE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION PROCESS – Penny Davis, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Transition Advisory Committee

Ms. Davis provided members with a handout which showed that subcommittee meetings are paring down a bit, as anticipated, since most have completed their work. She said at this time they have three active subcommittees: policy and procedures, information technology, and facilities. At their September meeting, the Authority approved recommendations for the graphics of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) badge, shoulder patch, and vehicle, as well as the IMPD flag; a commitment to police presence at 4209 North College Avenue; and passage of 18 general orders. Yesterday's Authority meeting resulted in selection of the Merit Board Election Committee Chair, Sergeant Michael Duke of the Indianapolis Police Department (IPD), and passage of five general orders. There have been 182 recommendations submitted through the steering committee, with only nine pending at this time; indicating a good record of approving recommendations. Everything has been finalized with the Northwest District, and they have started their build-out. They hope to be ready with that facility by the end of December, so that this station will be ready to go January 1, 2007. She said that by next month, they hope to have sworn and civilian employees notified of their new positions and how they will fit into the new IMPD structure.

Councillor Gibson thanked Ms. Davis for her hard work and referred to the 4209 North College facility. He asked, although there will no longer be a roll call site at this location, if a police presence will remain in this area. Ms. Davis said that this facility was already packed to capacity and there was no room for more officers at this location. However, there will always be a report station at this location, and therefore, there will still be a substantial police presence in the area.

Councillor Gibson asked if the committee has a handle on last-minute details like information technology and benefits and Social Security. Ms. Davis said that there has been no response yet from the Social Security Administration and unfortunately have no control over when that answer will be forthcoming. She said that there are still large

discrepancies in benefits between IPD and the Marion County Sheriff's Department (MCSD), and they are still looking into that. They are working hard on the new facilities and are working closely with the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Agency (MECA) to make sure all information technology and communication measures are in place. Councillor Gibson asked if the City is on target to start the merger on January 1, 2007. Ms. Davis said that she believes they are.

Councillor Pfisterer said that she has attended some of these committee hearings and appreciates all of the hard work being put into this effort. She said that there was some discussion about a reporting facility at Lafayette Square to increase police presence in that area and asked if these discussions are continuing. Ms. Davis said that they are, but added that there is a full-blown roll call site on Industrial Boulevard, which also insures that this area will realize a very strong police presence.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if Suzannah Wilson-Overholt, Transition Director, can offer any insight on the Social Security issue. Ms. Overholt stated that the issue has not yet been resolved. They had a telephone conference with the Social Security Administration (SSA) in November of last year, where questions about UniGov were asked. The Attorney General issued his opinion this summer, so the SSA has had that opinion for at least two or three months. She said that one of the SSA attorneys in Chicago subsequently called representatives at the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF) offices, and the most recent communication she has heard last week is that the issue has moved from Chicago to the SSA's Baltimore offices. It seems to be moving up the chain, but the City still has not heard what the delay is about. The resolution of the Social Security coverage by January 1, 2007 will not affect the ability of the two departments to merge. They will continue to pay Social Security as they are paid now, with IPD not being paid and MCSD being paid, which is what they are asking the SSA to approve. Councillor Pfisterer asked if they are just waiting on a response from SSA. Ms. Overholt stated that this is correct, and they have been informed that it is an issue to be handled internally.

Councillor Plowman asked about the litigation concerning the promotional process. Ms. Overholt said that the hearing was originally scheduled for today in Judge Cale Bradford's court. He was in the middle of a jury trial, however, and the hearing was postponed. She has heard from various sources that it will be held on Friday, but has not yet received official communication on that new hearing date. Councillor Plowman asked if there are any updates on the current IPD contract or future IMPD contract. Ms. Overholt said that she is not involved in that process, but knows that the City and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) are in the mediation stage of those negotiations. She said that she does not think the FOP has yet approached the MCSD about discussing an IMPD contract, but cannot be sure about that.

Councillor McWhirter asked what the consequences will be if SSA rules against the City, and they have to pay Social Security for the IPD officers in the new department. Ms. Overholt said that based on all discussions, regulations, case law, and previous

SSA decisions, this is an incredibly unlikely scenario. However, if SSA were to determine that the entire new department will be covered by Social Security, the cost would raise from the approximately \$1.5 million paid for the MCSD deputies now another \$3 to \$4 million to cover the additional IPD officers. She said that this ruling, however, would be contrary to all previous precedent and conversation, and she does not believe it will occur.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lonnell Conley, Chairman

LC/ag